

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

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FM AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8128

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTIAGO 1856

EXDIS

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: CI, PFOR, PINS

SUBJECT: HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE

REFS: SANTIAGO 1687, 1731, 1833

1. REFTELS MAY BE SAID TO MARK COMPLETION OF FIRST ROUND OF OUR REPRESENTATIONS WITH RESPECT TO HUMAN RIGHTS IN CHILE. WE WILL CONTINUE TO REPEAT SUBSTANCE OF OUR COMMENTS WHENEVER APPROPRIATE, BUT CHILEANS ARE NOW FULLY APPRISED OF OUR VIEWS -- PARTICULARLY WITH RESPECT TO IMPORTANCE OF PROPER LEGAL PROCEDURES IN PENDING TRIALS -- AND DECISION IS UP TO THEM.

2. IT OCCURS TO ME THAT NEXT PHASE MIGHT PROPERLY BEGIN IN WASHINGTON. I GATHER THAT ADMIRAL HUERTA HAD A FAIRLY HARD TIME AT THE TLATELOLCO MEETING BECAUSE OF CHILE'S POSITION ON HUMAN RIGHTS, AND I EXPECT HE WILL AGAIN AT THE MFM IN WASHINGTON AND THE OAS MEETING IN ATLANTA. I BELIEVE THAT AT SOME STAGE DURING HUERTA'S PRESENCE IN THE UNITED STATES A LOW-KEY BUT VERY HIGH-LEVEL APPROACH TO HIM REGARDING THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF CHILE'S STANCE ON HUMAN RIGHTS QUESTIONS WOULD BE WELL ADVISED. CHILEANS APPARENTLY UNDERSTAND AND ACCEPT THE RATIONALE: THAT OUR ABILITY TO HELP THEM IS AFFECTED VERY DIRECTLY BY THE WAY IN WHICH THEY HANDLE THIS PROBLEM. WE UNDERSTAND THE SECURITY PROBLEM FOR THE JUNTA, AND THE STRESSES UNDER WHICH IT WORKS, BUT WE HOPE CHILEANS WILL ASK THEMSELVES WHETHER ALL OF THE MEASURES THEY HAVE

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TAKEN ARE REASONABLY RELATED TO THEIR SECURITY REQUIREMENTS.

3. I HOPE DEPARTMENT WILL NOT MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE
THE BASIC POINT. IF DESIRED, WE CAN FILL OUT THE ARGUMENTATION
AS REQUIRED.
POPPER

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NNN

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